

The Baby Boomers in Puerto Rico: the Effect of their Sociodemographic Characteristics on the Aging Population.

The main purpose of the present investigation was to examine the demographic effect that the cohort of Baby Boomers living in Puerto Rico will have on the aged population in Puerto Rico. The population under study was composed by two main groups: population aged 65 and over living in Puerto Rico by the year 2000 and those who were born between 1946 and 1964 and by the time of the 2000 census were living in the island. A secondary data set was used to obtain the information. Cross tabulated data provided by the Bureau of the Census from the 2000 Census of Population and Housing, specifically SF3 And SF1 was utilized.

The following were the specific objectives of the study: describe the sociodemographic characteristics of the population aged 65 and over living in Puerto Rico by the year 2000; describe the sociodemographic characteristics of these who were born between 1946 and 1964 Baby Boomers aged 35 to 54 by the year 2000 and analyze the demographic effect that the group will have on the future aged population living in the island

Puerto Rico has an old age structure. The aged population in the island accounts for 11.2 percent of the total population. These people present some sociodemographic characteristics that distinguish them from other age groups. However, these characteristics will be dramatically affected by the time the Baby Boomers reach age 65. Approximately 1 million persons in Puerto Rico were by the 2000 Census between the ages of 35 to 54, which is a considerable amount just in terms of volume. In addition, this group when compare to the aged population in the island differ significantly in term of their

demographic attributes. These two aspects will bring in to important changes in the near future for the aged population in Puerto Rico, which in turn will alter the health status and demands of this group.

Baby boomers in Puerto Rico have a high proportion of women, a considerable amount of married and single persons, and a substantial amount of widows. In terms of socioeconomic characteristics, a considerable amount have completed high school or go beyond this degree and participate in the labor force. On the other hand there still a large proportion living under poverty levels. The proportion of women head of household is a substantial one in this group. The observed characteristics for the baby boomers indicate that in ten years the characteristics of the aged population will change dramatically in the island. Definitely the attributes the people over 65 years will have in the island will demand a different approach to attend their necessities.